

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: August 10, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:36 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chairman
Bob Cockrum
Susie Day
Ron Gibson
Monroe Gray, Jr.
Dane Mahern
Earl Salisbury

Absent Members

William Oliver

BUDGET HEARING

Overview - Director
Arts Council
Administration Division
Park Maintenance Division
Resource Development Division
Golf Division
Greenways Division
Park Rangers Division
Community Recreation Division
Sports and Special Revenues Facilities Division
Environmental and Interpretive Service Division

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, August 10, 2006. Chairman Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Susie Day, Ron Gibson, Monroe Gray, Jr., Dane Mahern, and Earl Salisbury. Absent was William Oliver.

Chair Brown stated that with all the negative things happening in our City, everyone in City and County government is doing all they can to get a handle on the crime that has plagued the City. He also stated that the Parks Department has programs that uplift the people to be inspired to do better things for their lives and community.

BUDGET HEARING

Overview- Director (Department of Parks and Recreation, pages 1-35)

Joseph Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that he agrees with Chair Brown that DPR wants to be the agency that uplifts the community to give citizens a better quality of life. Mr. Wynns stated that Parks can play a role in trying to change that perception. He also reviewed a Powerpoint presentation in detail, which is attached as Exhibit A.

MR. Wynns stated that DPR is composed of nine divisions: Administration, Community Recreation, Spots and Special Revenue, Golf, Greenways, Park Operations, Environmental Education, Park Rangers, and Recourse Development. There are three key goals that are focused on each day regarding how programs are operated and maintenance of the parks. Mr. Wynns stated that the Mission of DPR is to provide clear leadership and well-defined direction for enhancing the quality of life in the community and making sure the facilities are safe, clean, and well maintained. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR cannot do the job they have without partnerships.

Mr. Wynns gave some key points of the Indy Parks Facilities.

- 188 Park Properties
- 10,884 Acres
- 22 Aquatic Facilities
- 23 Family Centers
- 3 Dog Parks
- 174 Picnic Areas
- 13 Golf Courses
- 3 Restaurants Leased

Department Highlights

- Selected the second time as a finalist, National Gold Medal Award for Excellence

in Parks & Recreation Management

- Provided service to 7.9 million park visitors through programs, parks, and greenways
- Collected \$1.5 million through partnerships, sponsorships, and donations
- Received over 30 grants totaling \$830,000
- Logged 92,842 volunteer hours
- Opened Garfield Park Arts Center, Bethel Park and Rhodius Park Family Centers
- Produced new Senior Movement

2007 Service Commitments

- Host National Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Indianapolis in late September, 2006 and will be host to more than 10,000 delegates across the country
- Break ground for the First Tee program focusing on serving at-risk youth through teaching the sport of golf. Funded 100% through golf revenues.
- Collaborate with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation to break ground on the new Windsor Village Park project
- Develop comprehensive asset and preventive maintenance guidelines to assist in developing the annual capital improvement plan.
- Provide a \$1.2 million match to expanding the South White River Greenway

Mr. Wynns stated that he will run through some of the budget numbers and that Wayne Simpson, Chief Financial Officer, will provide in-depth numbers as the hearing progresses. Mr. Wynns stated that the 2006 Budget was \$30,040,470. New guidelines that were given for 2007 amounted to \$1,630,795. Included in those costs were the health insurance, workers compensation, and the City-County building rent had increased because DPR is trying to acquire more space. He also said that the Information Services Agency (ISA) allocation is for computer services. He said that DPR has decreased some of the funding for office equipment, increased vehicle leases, and the Fleet Services charge increased due to the rising cost of fuel.

Mr. Wynns discussed some of the changes in DPR which amounted to a \$1.4 million increase which includes the golf division and the Garfield Arts Center. These changes are controlled by the amount of revenue that programs bring in. Operation of these programs, janitorial increases for new and expanded facilities, capital funding increases (with the \$1.2 million for the South White River Golf course), and various Character 01 adjustments that Mr. Simpson will explain in detail are all included in the \$1.4 million. Mr. Wynns stated that the total budget for 2007 is \$33,162,934, which is about a \$3 million increase over last year.

Mr. Simpson stated that in Character 01, the increases that are shown are mostly guidelines. He said that 90% of those are the medical, Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF), Federal Insurance Contribution Agency (FICA). Mr. Simpson stated that

the budget is flat with the exception of those guidelines. Mr. Simpson stated that the medical costs have risen 8% and a small rate adjustment for PERF.

Councillor Mahern asked if the 3% proposed increase for the City and County employees were factored in the budget. Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, Office of Finance and Management (OFM), answered in the negative.

Councillor Cockrum asked if the proposed increase is not included in the budget, where does the \$42,947 increase in Character 01 under Salaries-Bi-weekly fit in. Mr. Simpson stated that those are salary adjustments due to some divisional changes and employees moving from part time to full time.

Mr. Simpson stated that in Character 02, supplies increased by \$12,000. That increase is due to the opening of the Arts Center in Garfield. He stated that in Character 03, line item 335, Information Technology increased \$ 1.1 million due to changes in the way funds are allocated through ISA. Mr. Seidenstein stated that the shift in the allocations resulted in most of the ISA charges that were paid by the Controller and Auditor's office and very little of that cost was allocated to the department. He said it was a better method to attribute the cost to where the services are being used.

Councillor Salisbury asked how many various types of golf courses there are. Mr. Wynns answered that there are four.

Mr. Simpson stated that in Character 04, there is a \$1.2 million increase for the South White River Parkway project. He stated that in Character 05, the increase of \$ 93,000 is for Fleet Services allocation for fuel and maintenance. He said that the greatest portion went to the maintenance division with some portion going to the rangers due to their increased fuel usage.

Councillor Cockrum commended the OFM for adding the revenue summary pages in the budget to show where funds other than taxes come from. Mr. Seidenstein stated that this is all the revenue that is attributed to the department operations and does not include property taxes. Councillor Cockrum asked if that income is also funds that the parks department uses. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Mahern asked how close the budgeted amount for fuel expenses are, and if departments will have to return later in the year to ask for more funds. Mr. Seidenstein stated that he is not sure. When Fleet Services put together the budget for fuel and maintenance for all the City agencies, they sent out the allocations and told each department how much to anticipate. He said that there is a total increase in the budget for \$2 million more for fuel. Councillor Mahern asked if fuel prices will impact the budget within the different departments that use many vehicles. Mr. Seidenstein stated that is always a best guess. The City and the County agencies are under a fair amount of pressure because of the budget to make sure that fuel is not wasted but turning in take home vehicles, and trying to be efficient to make the funds go as far as they can.

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Councillor Cockrum called to OFM's attention that there are some discrepancies in the different line items. Mr. Seidenstein thanked Councillor Cockrum and stated that he will look into it. Chair Brown asked OFM to provide updated copies of the budget at the end of the budget cycle, so that there can be accurate numbers to compare to the 2008 budget. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Wynns thanked his staff for all their hard work and everything they have done to make this year very productive.

Arts Council

Dan Appel, Chairman, Arts Council
Greg Charleston, President and CEO

Mr. Appel stated that the Arts Council enjoys the partnership it has with the Parks Department for their support and cooperation over the past years. Mr. Appel stated that the Arts believe that these programs can help systemic change in terms of public safety. He said that the youth in our community need creative opportunities to be productive and valuable members of the community.

Mr. Charleston stated that the Arts Council annually regrants City funding to more than 75 arts and community organizations. In the last two years, city funding has supported a more than 30% increase in the number of groups and arts programs. Mr. Charleston stated that City funding supports programs that include things such as: free concerts in neighborhood parks and community centers, the arts programs available in juvenile and correctional facilities, youth clubs, and womens' and homeless shelters. The arts program provides for inner-city youth with: day camps, after school programs, programs for youth that use the arts to build skills such as, self esteem, confidence, and communication.

Mr. Charleston stated that collectively, arts organizations provide direct arts programming to more than 1.6 million students and to more than 475,000 senior citizens annually. He said that the \$1.5 million that the council supports is matched by more than \$223 million by the organizations that are funded. Mr. Charleston introduced Jan Virgin with Dance Kaleidoscope and Deborah Ashanti with the Ashanti Theatre, to testify to how the arts supports different programming.

Jan Virgin stated that Dance Kaleidoscope has the unique opportunity of working with the Indiana Girls School. She stated that one young lady that was very unresponsive at the beginning of the program became a leader and helped every girl there write their own songs, poems, and lyrics. Ms. Virgin stated that with the help of the different programs the arts council provides, it makes a difference in the lives of our youth.

Deborah Ashanti stated that she has worked all over the City with art organizations. She said that it is vital that the arts programs are supported because that is the biggest

proactive measure toward our own personal safety. She said that the community has to ensure that youth understand their value and worth.

Chair Brown stated that he agrees wholeheartedly that the community has to inspire young people, motivate and encourage them, and everyone needs to get involved.

Councillor Salisbury said that the reasoning given for funding the arts was to decrease crime and crime has not decreased and therefore measurements should be put in place to determine where funds should be spent to actually reduce crime. He also stated that he is a fan of the arts but does not think taxpayers' money should be spent. Councillor Gray stated that he disagreed with Councillor Salisbury. He said that the worst time for children is between 3:00pm and 6:00pm and if there are programs for those children at those times, the child will be much safer child opposed to one who does not have anywhere to go. He stated that he totally supports the arts and believes they are a great asset to the community. Mr. Charleston stated that he will provide statistical numbers for the committee that supports how the arts help youth.

Councillor Cockrum asked if the level of the funds for the arts are the same next year as it is for this year. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative.

Park Maintenance Division
Budget Book, pages 12-14

Chair Brown stated that a Bond Issue for \$12 million was passed to purchase some equipment and some parks vehicles were part of that. Mr. Wynns stated that a list was submitted for park equipment. Chair Brown stated that the list consisted of equipment prices and asked if DPR does take bids to get the best prices available. He also asked if there was a long term vehicle replacement plan. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative, stating that there is a list of vehicles that need replacing. Most of the vehicle replacement plan comes from Fleet Services. Fleet Services basically does the purchasing, as well as recommending what needs to be disposed of.

Councillor Mahern asked if Park Rangers will still be under DPR. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative, stating that there are no plans to move them.

Chair Brown asked if the person in charge of the Park Rangers would tell how many rangers there are and what his rank is. John Maddingly, Captain, and Administrator with the Park Rangers, stated that there are 21 rangers and one administrative assistant. Chair Brown asked Mr. Maddingly where he currently works. Mr. Mattingly stated he is stationed at Eagle Creek.

Councillor Cockrum asked if all of the Information Technology costs are factored into the administration portion of the budget. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Cockrum asked if DPR is planning to purchase more uniforms and maintaining that budget for next year. Mr. Simpson answered in the negative. Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 309, technical services, and asked if the \$12,000 in the first six months include a contract for the year. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative, stating that there are also blanket purchase orders, meaning DPR is seasonal in April and May so there is no need to do month- to- month contracts. Mr. Seidenstein stated that most of those funds go toward portable toilet rental and service.

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 338, infrastructure maintenance, and asked what services are included in that amount. Mr. Simpson stated that two major items are in that line item. One is the tree removal contract, which is for the entire year, and the mowing contract, which is for the whole season.

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 350, facility lease and rentals, and asked since three times the budget has been spent, if the maintenance division got moved. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative, stating that various parking spaces had to be leased.

Councillor Cockrum asked if line item 362, building maintenance and repair, is an annual contract. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative. Chair Brown asked if there was an overall decrease in Character 03. Mr. Simpson stated that the decrease by \$78,000 is due to the Information Technology allocation that is now in the Administration Division. Councillor Cockrum asked why in line 415, furnishings and office equipment, the budget was exceeded by \$5,000, but yet then are holding it steady for next year. Mr. Simpson stated that in line 420, equipment, some charges are being moved between objects and line item 420 has to do with moving to the new facility and furnishing it. Councillor Cockrum asked if there is a mix between line items 415 and 420. Mr. Simpson stated that as DPR purchases items in different categories, they sometimes take from one budget and underspend in the others to cover.

Sports and Special Revenues Facilities Division
Budget Book, pages15-17

Councillor Cockrum stated that in line item 230, institutional, medical & food supplies, the amount spent was \$60,000, compared to the budgeted amount of \$45,000. He asked why that amount is higher. Jennifer Voreis, Administrator, Sports and Special Revenues Facilities, stated that DPR is operating a number of concession stands. This line item is where food for those stands are purchased, and that turns around into revenue. Chair Brown asked if some of the concession stands are contracted out and some are run by the Parks department. Ms. Voreis answered in the affirmative.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gibson arrived at 6:11 p.m.}

Councillor Cockrum asked if line item 309, technical services, is a contract. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative, stating that janitorial items are included in that particular line. Councillor Cockrum asked if there is a reason why line item 329, travel and mileage, has more than doubled.

Mr. Simpson stated that it is for ground mileage reimbursement for employees. Councillor Cockrum asked if it was cheaper for the department to pay mileage than use a City vehicle because of chargebacks for the use of City vehicles. Mr. Simpson stated that DPR did turn in quite a few vehicles last year.

Councillor Cockrum asked if line item 332, instruction and tuition, includes a contract. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative, stating that there are several contracts for the instructors out in the recreation centers.

Community Recreation Division
Budget Book, pages 18-20

Councillor Cockrum asked what the reason is behind the increase in line item 210, materials and supplies. Ms. Voreis stated that the Community Recreation division has gotten all supplies in. In the fall, DPR has basketball leagues where they supply the uniforms for the participants, so that number will be higher. Councillor Cockrum asked if this division is seasonal. Ms. Voreis answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 312, management contracts, and asked why they are not budgeting more for 2007 if their year-to-date expenditures are \$20,000 more than their 2006 revised budget. Mr. Simpson stated that the management contracts are seasonal and it is locked up ahead of time because of the summer camps and specialty programs. The individuals that run those programs are included in that line item also. Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 353, utilities, and asked if all utilities will be put under one division, and if those funds are really needed. Mr. Simpson stated that all utilities are under one division, and it probably was a special case as to why those charges were put in that line item. He also said that charges could be moved to the Administration Division to pay the bills.

Greenways Division
Budget Book, pages 24-26

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 306, architectural and engineering service, stating that only \$406 was spent, yet DPR is asking for \$35,000 next year. He asked if that is part of a grant. Peggy Boehm, Greenways Administrator, stated that before the year is out, they will have spent more money on consulting services, and part of that will come out of the Greenways budget. Mr. Simpson stated that the information technology was taken out of that division. Ms. Boehm also added that they are down one employee.

Golf Division
Budget Book, pages 27-29

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 210, materials and supplies, and asked why there is a carryover of \$10,000 and there has not been anything spent to date. Lou Hurtle, Golf Administrator, stated that it was in anticipation that DPR would be further

along with the First Tee project. He said that there was a delay in getting the property, and therefore they have not been able to finish the design. He also said that with a new facility, you have to start buying tables, chairs, and other supplies. Therefore, the money has not been spent because, without the facility, there is no place to put the supplies.

Mr. Hurrle stated that the funds will not be spent this year but will be included in next year's budget because they finally have the property to start the First Tee project. Councillor Cockrum asked if that amount carries over to line item 312, management contracts. Mr. Hurrle answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 321, waste collection and disposal, and asked why the \$36,000 was budgeted for both this and last year, yet the money has not been spent for this year. Mr. Hurrle stated that one year ago, \$36,000 was spent at Sarah Shank. There were underground storage tanks that were moved back in 1999 due to leakage, which resulted in contaminated soil; so DPR has been spending at least \$25,000 per year for underground monitoring on the site. He said that those funds are left in the budget because it is not clear whether or not DPR will have to remove the contaminated soil again. Councillor Cockrum stated that the funds may have been entered into line item 338, infrastructure maintenance, instead of line item 321. Mr. Hurrle stated that this year there was some irrigation repair at Sarah Shank. Their computer system that runs the golf course failed and could not be replaced, so new hardware and software had to be installed. He said that at Sahm Golf Course, the control boxes on the courses were not in proper working order and they had to be replaced.

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 368, insurance premiums, and asked why they are budgeting for \$19,000. Mr. Simpson stated that last year the department almost spent that amount, so it was matched for this year. Councillor Cockrum asked if the department purchased insurance for this year. Mr. Simpson stated that it was actually paid out of another division last year. He also said that since these are golf-related facilities, it was moved to the golf division where it belongs. Mr. Hurrle stated that this year there is an actual budget for it.

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 405, buildings. The amount spent was \$500,000, and this division is asking for \$700,000 next year. He asked what the difference is for that. Mr. Hurrle stated that the \$500,000 was the requisition amount for the Thatcher Clubhouse. The actual cost was \$630,000, so the cost lines up with what was budgeted. Councillor Cockrum asked for an explanation of line item 580, cost pool allocation. Mr. Simpson stated that this amount is an allocation that goes from the golf sub fund to the arts general sub fund. He stated that this practice has been going on for a number of years.

Resource Development Division
Budget Book, page 30 and 31

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 353, utilities, and asked if DPR is picking that amount up next year in the administration division. Mr. Simpson stated that this was a part of the Earth Discovery Center project where the power lines needed upgrading and installing. He stated that it was part of the Capital project with Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL).

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 338, infrastructure maintenance, and asked why there was not any budgeted, yet \$45,000 was spent so far this year. Mr. Simpson stated that based on the project mix, it is not expected to be spent. Councillor Cockrum asked if in line item 410, improvements, the \$3 million is grant money. Mr. Simpson answered in the negative, stating that \$1.2 million is the additional cumulative fund allocation for the South White River Trail Project.

Councillor Gray asked where the money is allocated for facility repairs. Mr. Simpson stated that some will be in Resource Development and some will be in maintenance. Mr. Wynns stated that for the last couple of years, they have allocated anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million out of the cumulative fund for maintenance repairs.

Councillor Cockrum asked if the cumulative fund allocation to Parks for next year will be increasing. Mr. Wynns stated that it is increasing back to \$3.2 million from \$2.8 million.

Councillor Salisbury asked if the cumulative fund was also used to restore the Taggart Memorial and if there is a target date for that. Keith Cheney, Administrator, stated that there are two proposals for \$400,000 apiece, and they are waiting to get confirmation for that project. He stated that the target date will most likely be in 2008.

Park Rangers
Budget Book, page 34

Councillor Cockrum referred to line item 520, Fleet Service Charges, and asked if that increase was primarily due to fuel costs. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Cockrum asked since they are several rangers down in the department is the same budget being maintained and does it include the 3% increase. Mr. Simpson answered in the negative.

Chair Brown thanked Mr. Wynns and DPR for the information they presented. Councillor Salisbury also thanked DPR and Mr. Wynns for the awesome work they do within their department.

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With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

VB/law

Vernon Brown, Chair

Parks and Recreation Committee